

500.41021X00

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Applicant(s): Y. KONISHI, et al

MAY 14 2004

Serial No.: 10/024,718

Technology Center 2600

Filed: December 21, 2001

For: HANDLING SYSTEM AND DEVICE FOR DETERMINING A  
STATE OF A SLIP

Group: 2622

#7  
TL  
5-18-04

Examiner:

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**  
**UNDER 37 CFR 1.97 & 1.98**

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

May 13, 2004

Sir:

In the matter of the above-identified application, applicant(s) is/are submitting herewith a copy of a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application and copies of the documents listed in the attached form equivalent to Form PTO-1449 for the Examiner's consideration.

This information disclosure statement is being submitted before the mailing date of a first office action on the merits and with the following certification specified in 37 CFR 1.97(e).

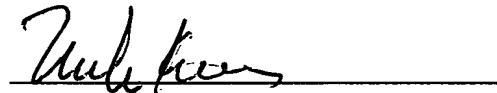
On information and belief, each item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this statement.

To the extent that, the documents listed on the attached form equivalent to Form PTO-1449, are not in the English language, the requirement of 37 CFR 1.98(a)(3) for a concise explanation of the relevance is satisfied by an English language version or translation of the foreign patent office report citing the documents.

It is respectfully requested that this information disclosure statement be considered by the Examiner.

Please charge any shortage in the fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (500.41021X00) and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,



Melvin Kraus  
Registration No. 22,466  
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MK/cee  
Attachments  
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Form PTO-1449  
Equivalent



Department of Commerce  
Patent and Trademark Office

Atty. Docket No. 500.41021X00  
Serial No. 10/024,718  
Applicant: Y. KONISHI, et al  
Filing Date: December 21, 2001  
Group: 2622

U.S. Patent Documents

Examiner Initials	Document No.	Date	Name	Class Subclass	Filing Date If Approp.
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5,930,405	7/99	Chida
5,940,128	8/99	Morimura
6,018,363	1/00	Horii
6,144,403	11/00	Otani
6,697,536 B1	2/04	Yamada

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Foreign Patent Documents

Document No.	Date	Country	Class Subclass	Translation Yes   No
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2000-308045    11/00    Japan

(abstract)

Other Documents (including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)

Examiner

Date Considered

\*Examiner: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609;  
Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next  
communication to applicant.